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AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

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Every friend of immigration restriction should immediately request their two Senators to insist on the Burnett Immigration bill being voted on at this session of Congress.

HAVE NOT INCREASED COST OF OPERATION

Cleveland, April 28.—In opposing the eight-hour demand of employes, railroad employes the railroads make no reference to increased train loads and decreased operating expenses which compels their employes to work harder and handle more traffic for any additional wages received during the past few years.

The train service men's publicity bureau has issued a statement on this feature of the controversy in which they show that wage increases have not increased the cost of operation. They say:

"Engine and train crews have transported proportionately a greater volume of freight than they have received increases in wages. As a consequence, the labor cost to the railroads of engine and train crews has decreased.

"During the course of the recent arbitration between the western railroads and their engineers and firemen, it was shown that the proportion of total operating expenses arising from payments to transportation employes was 11 per cent less in 1913 than in 1890.

"It was shown that wage payments to transportation employes required 44.5 cents out of each dollar of revenue earned by western railroads in 1913 as compared with 53 cents out of each dollar of revenue in 1890. When considered on the basis of freight tonnage, it was found that the cost per thousand for wages to locomotive engineers and firemen 65 cents for each 1,000 tons carried one mile in 1890, while in 1912, engineers and firemen transported 1,000 tons a mile for only 25 cents, a decrease of cost to the railroads for these employes alone, during this period of slightly more than 39 per cent. This was also shown by testimony exhibits submitted during the western arbitration that during the more recent years, 1909-1913, the cost to the transportation companies for wages of engineers and firemen decreased 12 per cent for each 1,000 tons of freight hauled one mile.

"It is apparent from these facts that the productive efficiency of transportation employes has increased more than their rates of pay. To produce these results for the railroads they have had to work excessive hours. The present movement for an eight-hour day is, therefore, a reasonable request by transportation employes to participate in the benefits of their own labor, not primarily in terms of dollars and cents but in form of a shorter work day."

ARMY'S HEALTH POOREST.

Washington, April 29.—Officers and soldiers of the United States army were sick more and longer in 1913 than any other body of men which has been studied by the United States public health service, according to a report on disability statistics, just issued.

During the year, the report says, the enlisted strength of over 1,000 in the army were admitted to sick report. Disability due to disease was at the rate of 498 per 1,000 and due to injury 64.4. The average disability lasted 13 1-2 days, and the average number of days of sick report per year for the enlisted personnel was 8 1-2.

Government employes in Washington, according to statistics covering 16,000 persons, lost only 5.84 days apiece, on an average, for disability, or exactly eight days each less a year than for enlisted men. The report says the service is at a high standard, considering disability as a large percentage of government employes are in middle or elderly life, while the big majority of enlisted men are in their twenties and are accepted only after rigid physical examination.

Men employed in the government civil service, the report shows, lost only 4.82 days apiece from work, while women lost 5.90 days each. Of every 1,000 men, fifteen men and 24 women out of every 1,000 were off duty for disability every day.

SHIP OWNERS PROSPER.

New York, April 29.—In large advertisements a brokerage firm urges the public to buy United States Steamship company bonds to the extent of $5,000,000. The company was recently organized with an authorized capital of $25,000,000. It has contracted for the purchase of at least 87½ per cent of the stock of 12 eastern steamship companies. Six new vessels are under construction with facilities for building 11 additional vessels. The brokers assure the public that:

"Earnings of the United States Steamship company, we believe, will be large, in view of the fact that it will be in a strong position to meet the growing demand for tonnage and demand for increased shipping facilities and for the prospect of further increase in rates to come."

The above statements are of especial interest in view of the present campaign against the seamen's law and the predictions of this same element that the La Follette law would destroy our merchant marine."

GOLD BEATERS RAISE WAGES.

New York, April 29.—The gold beaters of New York, Boston and Philadelphia have secured their first contract with the United States Gold Leaf Manufacturers' association. The New York and Boston gold beaters, who work under the same system, have raised wages $2 a week, the agreement calling for wages of $13.50 a week. The wages of girls are also raised. A. F. of L. Organizer Frayne, who assisted in the negotiations, estimates that these increases will total $50,000 a year for 200 workers. The strike lasted five days and the gold beaters are enthusiastic over the outcome because it is the first time they have been able to reach uniform agreements as to prices or receive recognition from employers in an effort to fix minimum rates.

MINIMUM WAGE FOR STAGE.

Boston, April 29.—At a conference between the Central Labor Union, White Rats Actors' union and the United Booking company a minimum wage will be paid to actors and actresses, the first in stage history in the country, it is stated. The wage agreed to is $25 a week in Boston with transportation if sent out of town. The managers officially recognize the White Rats Actors' union, which is composed of vaudeville actors and actresses and is affiliated to the American Federation of Labor.

RAILROAD HEADS GATHER.

New York, April 28.—Executives of the railroads in all territory affected by the demands of the four brotherhoods for a new wage scale, for an eight-hour day and pay for overtime met in this city last week to make preliminary arrangements for the coming negotiations with the representatives of the brotherhoods.

PAINTERS WIN STRIKE.

Danville, Ill., April 29.—Employing painters have signed an agreement with their striking employes. Improved working conditions are agreed to.

LAWLESS "COSSACKS" CLUB MEN AND WOMEN

Scranton, Pa., April 29.—The state constabulary, known as "cossacks," is blamed for rioting at Wilkes-Barre. Street car men have been on strike for several months, and the town is the scene of numerous outbreaks by Waddell strikebreakers, guards and the state constabulary. The following is from correspondent to the Scrantonian says:

"Men who would really be led to believe he was to pay attention to the preachers of law and order, that to refuse to ride the streetcars was the badge of the state and go about armed to the teeth looking for and provoking trouble.

"That the city and county is menaced by a lawless horde, there is no denying. That state, county and city authorities seem to be linked with the traction company in the effort to drive the strikers from the work and compel people to ride the scab-manned cars, there is very little reason to doubt.

"The lawlessness and disorder that breaks out in spots hereabouts could be checked if the county and city authorities but did their duty. Instead they are openly sending for additional state troopers to protect the lawless horde that is now here. So, with the mayor, should take action to rid the community of the gunmen and thugs that go about beating up people and insulting women and children, thus provoking riots.

"There is no lack of proof of the fact that the hands of the police have but no opportunity pass to stir up trouble. The police records will bear out this statement, and as well all the court records. But for some reason or another, instead of doing these things the limit, so far they do with the citizens of this city, they are let off and thus encouraged to commit other depredations."

NEWS FROM PROVIDENCE.

Providence, R. I., April 29.—Journeymen Horseshoers' union has secured its first union shop agreement in this city. Wages of fifteen have increased from $15 to $18 a week, and floormen from $15 to $18. About 100 employes are benefited.

Painters are in the fourth week of their strike for higher wages. About 150 of the 600 who suspended work have secured increases. They are receiving from 45 1-2 to 50 cents an hour; paperhangers, 50 to 55 cents an hour. The employers have declared that there is no trouble, but a scarcity of so-called "free and independent workmen" retards their plan. There are 1,000 members of the union and the new union in this calling.

The state legislature has adjourned. The labor union movement failed to secure the passage of a bill limiting the hours of labor for women and children employed between 6 a. m. and 8 p. m. Other labor legislation met a similar fate.

Providence firemen and motormen are joining a union of this craft and it is predicted that within a short time the Providence Street Railway company will be the largest in the city. There are about 800 of these workers in Providence.

DANGERS OF INDUSTRY.

New York, April 28.—There are 2,000,000 wage earners in this state who are subject to the workmen's compensation law and during the year ending June 30 there was disabled for more than two weeks by an industrial accident in the 18 months ending December 31, 1915, according to a report issued by W. D. Archer, deputy state industrial commissioner.

In the 18 months there were reported 237,500 industrial accidents, of which 58,314, more than 25 per cent, died of wounds, carrying therewith an allowance of two-thirds of regular wages. Of the 237,500 total disability for work accidents and 81 per cent of the victims had others depending on them for support.

An analysis of the first 30,000 claims for benefits under the compensation law shows that the average value of a death award was $3,240; average value of a permanent total disability award, $7,470; average permanent partial disability award, $820.31; average temporary total disability award, $42.41.

PRISON SCANDAL REVIVED.

Little Rock, Ark., April 29.—A short time ago it was charged that convicts in this state were treated in an inhuman manner. Governor Hayes called Creighton to investigate, but the claims were found not true. Right-thinking people in Arkansas are glad the committee's report was a "whitewash," and continued the agitation. As a result Governor Hayes made a personal investigation, and later asked for the resignations of two members of the penitentiary board. This was refused and the state executive has brought charges against them. The fight is now on in earnest. One convict acknowledged he committed perjury when questioned by the prison investigating committee. When asked why he did so, he replied:

"Hell, if you lawyers knew that a 200-pound man with a six-foot lash was waiting to whip you if you did not testify as you were ordered, you would have committed perjury, too."

UNIONS ARE NECESSARY.

Greenville, S. C., April 28.—"We told you so," says Editor Peden of the Piedmont Circle, in commenting on the announcement by the Textile Manufacturers' association that it will not seek new law calculating to decking employes in cotton mills.

"Millions of dollars have been stolen from the cotton mill operatives through graft and robbery of docking," continues the Home Circle, which again gives this advice to workers:

"If we had a well regulated labor union that would protect us, we know how we could have—it would better regulate matters."

GAINS AT SCRANTON.

Scranton, Pa., April 28.—The Plasterers' union has a contract with employers which carries substantial betterments.

The Iron Molders' union has raised wages, secured the nine-hour day and a union shop agreement. Organizers are on foot as a result of thorough organization.

LABORERS RAISE WAGES.

Galesburg, Ill., April 29.—After a short strike the Building Laborers' union compromised with employers and accepted the offer of contractors to raise rates 2 1-2 cents an hour. The new rate is 27 1-2 cents for an eight-hour day.

LITERACY OPPONENTS CONTINUE ALARM CRY

Toledo, Ohio, April 28.—Under the caption "Still Harping at the Literacy Test," the Evening Blade expresses these editorial views on the Burnett immigration bill, now pending in Congress:

"A number of persons in excellent vocal condition continue to be exercised over the literacy test in the immigration bill. The faults and flaws they find in it are simply amazing. If an earnest minded citizen confined his reading to these criticisms he would become convinced that this test must be eliminated or the republic will perish.

"The immigration commission, which first made a study of ways to restrict the human flood from Europe, voted 8 to 1 for the literacy test because it was the only practical method suggested to it. One proposal was that the emigration from any one country should in a single year be limited to a certain percentage of the ten-year average emigration of the country. Another proposal was that immigration be restricted as to groups. In any one year, only a single group should have the privilege of entering the country. There was still another idea, that a contract be required guaranteeing the immigrant's ability to live above the level of misery. Finally, some of the restrictions could not be applied. The commission's task was a shortcut contest as the one thing that could be administered day after day without doing violence to the constitution, laws and treaties and raising the bugaboo of examining immigrants to the dimensions of fourteenth amendments.

"Once the immigration bill is passed and becomes operative, we will hear little more about the literacy test. The agitation has been conducted mostly by people who are ignorant of the shortage of cheap labor, an increase in living standards which would make a low standard of wages no longer possible."

"SPARRING FOR TIME."

Washington, April 28.—A committee of business men appointed by the Chamber of Commerces of the United States of America has been appointed by the interstate commerce commission to investigate the eight-hour demands of railroad train and engine men and the request for a nine-hour basic day.

It is also suggested that congress ask the employes and the railway companies to postpone further consideration of the questions at issue until the interstate commerce commission may be able to complete its investigations and make its report.

The report of the committee of the chamber of commerce is sent to a referendum and the result of the voting will be known in Washington in a few days.

If the referendum favors an investigation, the matter will be referred to the interstate commerce commission, both houses take favorable action the matter will be referred to the interstate commerce commission. The commission will investigate the wages and hours of not only the train service men, but the wages of switchmen, the eight-hour question and any other matter in this connection that the commission may deem relevant."

CHILD LABOR IS RUINOUS.

Waterbury, Conn., April 29.—"Children are a community's greatest and most valuable asset," said Governor Holcomb in an address at this city.

"Upon them the future's welfare or destruction must depend. Of what avail is it to build magnificent structures or to establish wonderful organizations if the human beings who are to be the motive power in them are not of the proper kind? It is time to realize that our democracy there are spots on the streets today some future president of the United States will be in obedience to the call of our commonwealth.

"It is true that out from the children must come the leaders in prudence, but the future leaders in wickedness and crime are also to come from the same group in embryo. If the child can not speak for itself, it therefore behooves those of us who are interested in the photographs as well as a brighter today to see to it that the children's rights are protected and their interests conserved."

WHERE "PUBLICITY" FAILED.

Phoenix, Ariz., April 29.—Ned Creighton, who conducted a publicity bureau for the Phelps-Dodge interests in the recent copper strike, pleaded guilty in the United States district court here to three counts charging him relating to printing advertisements under the guise of news matter. Creighton was proprietor of the Intermountain News Service, which supplied newspapers with reading matter and photographs in an attempt to turn public opinion against the strikers. Many of the newspapers that accepted this subsidy from the mine operators failed to print the word "advertisement" preceding such type, in the reading matter. Creighton, who procured the printing of the advertising, was indicted as a result.

RETAIL CLERKS WIN STRIKE.

Pittsburg, Kan., April 28.—The Retail Clerks' association has won its strike for better conditions and secured a contract with the Crawford County Retailers' association. Full time for overtime is agreed to, as is $1 a day for clerks, $6 a week for five days a week and $1.50 on Saturdays. Heretofore there was from 60 to 70 hours' work per week, with no pay for overtime. The time for closing stores is also regulated.

UNIONISTS REINSTATED.

Youngstown, Ohio, April 29.—The General Fireproofing company has reinstated several sheet metal workers who were discharged simultaneously with the forcing of the Sheet Metal Workers' union. The company has recognized the union and promised there will be no discrimination in future. There is a verbal agreement, 200 employes have returned to work.

METAL POLISHERS STRIKE.

Athol, Mass., April 28.—Metal polishers employed at the L. S. Starrett tool shop suspended work after the company refused to readjust wage rates. The men demand better general conferences with the management, but were finally notified that no advance would be given.

LOW WAGE WORKERS STRIKE.

Baltimore, Md., April 28.—After negotiating with an employer for nearly three weeks, 45 members of the Pail Makers' union, No. 15,608 were forced to suspend work. Cutters are paid as low as $10 a week and girls receive on an average $6.00 per 58-hour day.

INDUSTRIAL REPORT IS ORDERED PRINTED

Washington, April 29.—The house has concurred in the senate resolution to print the testimony taken by the commission on industrial relations, the exhibits submitted, and the report of the commission, which includes recommendations by the various groups of that body.

It is ordered that the joint committee on printing (of the house and senate) print 10,000 copies of all testimony taken at the hearings, 2,500 of which shall be for the use of the senators and 7,500 for the use of congressmen. It is also ordered that 100,000 copies of the report be printed, 50,000 copies for the senators and 70,000 for congressmen. These will be divided among the senators and congressmen for distribution.

In its report, the house committee on printing estimated that the testimony would comprise seven volumes of 1,008 pages each. The report of the commission will make one volume. It is also ordered that 10,000 copies of exhibits, comprising three volumes of 1,008 pages each, shall be printed.

The total cost is estimated at $20,688.25. As the legislative appropriation and report will have to be compiled and indexed it is quite probable it will be a few months before the work is ready for public distribution. The superintendent of public printing is authorized to reprint copies for sale.

OPPOSE COMPULSION.

Chicago, April 28.—Editor Matthew Woll of the American Photo Engraver, official magazine of the International Photo Engravers' union, makes this comment on compulsory insurance for workers:

"The enactment of legislation of this kind into law is only a decisive step in the tendency to regulate everything pertaining to labor by law and by commissions.

"Authorize a political agent to care for its citizens and you have taken from the scope of his activities or to his right to interfere in all the relations of life.

"The enactment of the law of compulsory insurance will inevitably lead to compulsory physical examination of all applicants for employment. The real purpose of physical examination may be ideal, but in our industrial life of today the practical application of such rules may be anything but ideal. The purpose of such examinations has already been perverted in many fields of industry to such a degree that the best interests of the workers have already been seriously menaced.

"There are many men, who, though afflicted with minor ailments, are nevertheless, capable of ably performing a reasonable day's work in their particular occupation. Such men, notwithstanding their ailments these workers are not willing to publicly announce their physical or mental deficiencies, nor should they be compelled to do so."

SILVER WORKERS STAND FIRM.

Meriden, Conn., April 29.—Employees of the International Silver company are entering on the eighth month of their strike to enforce shorter hours and higher wages. Heretofore every attempt to organize the silver trust's factories has been fought with the tactics of 1892. In October a force of 6,000 men and women employed in the company's plants in this city and vicinity surprised every. They are demanding a shorter workday, adequate wages and redress of grievances. With the opening of spring the strikers are more determined than ever, and it is stated that some concessions by the company's board of directors are beginning to relieve the strikers mean what they say—that betterments must be guaranteed before they return to work. The strikers are calling attention to advertisements in eastern newspapers in which the trust offers for sale second, or imperfect ware, of spoons, forks, knives, ladies and all kinds of flat ware. This indicates that there are many imperfections among the trusts "free and independents."

WATCH THE CHILD LABOR BILL.

Washington, Aug. 29.—Although the senate committee has made a favorable report on the Keating-Owen child labor bill, which has been passed by the house, the fate of this legislation will take advantage of every parliamentary situation to block final consideration.

If this bill becomes a law the products of child labor will be barred from interstate commerce, and trade unionists and other opponents of child labor are urged to write their senators and insist on an early vote on the Keating-Owen bill.

SIGN PLUMBERS' CONTRACT.

Cincinnati, Ohio, April 29.—The Master Plumbers' association has signed a three-years' contract with Plumbers' union No. 59. Beginning next July, wages will be increased 25 cents a day. Saturday work will cease at 11:30 instead of noon.

Jamestown, N. Y., April 29.—The Plumbers' union has signed wage rates from $3.50 to $3.75 per day, effective August 1. During 1917 the rate will be $4.

AUTO WORKERS GAIN.

Toledo, Ohio, April 28.—The Willys-Overland Automobile company has notified its 17,000 employees that beginning June 1 next hours will be reduced from 10 to 9 per week with no wage reductions, and wages will be increased in the various departments from 4 to 10 per cent.

UNIONIZING WATER FRONT.

Boston, April 29.—Officers of the Longshoremen's union announce that a charter is to be composed of more than 1,200 water front workers is preparing to affiliate with the International Longshoremen's association.

INJUNCTION REFUSED.

New York, April 29.—Supreme Court Justice Blupe has refused to issue an injunction against striking journeymen tailors. These workers are demanding improved conditions, and especially insist upon the installation of back shops.

"ORGANIZED" CHARITY NEEDS TAYLOR SYSTEM

New York, April 28.—While "efficiency" experts are losing sleep trying to convince workers that millions of dollars will be saved if they take longer steps when walking, organized charity is in sore need of one of these so-called "engineers" to put it on a Taylor system basis, if this editorial by the New York World states the case:

"Further light on the growth of organized charity as a gainful occupation is furnished by the report of investigators for the New York School of Philanthropy. They find that more than 4,000 men and women in New York city make a living in social work supported by private philanthropy. One social worker is paid $10,000 a year, eight receive $5,000 or more, and the salaries of 93 subordinates are above $600 annually. Altogether the salaried workers in the various charities of the city are as numerous as authors, editors, reporters, civil engineers and surveyors, and they form a larger group than clergymen, architects, dentists or chemists.

"Surely an excellent record of development for a comparatively young industry. Conceived of as a white-collar charity for the support of persons formerly living on private incomes, now entirely respectable and not arduous, organized social work is an admirable institution. It is something to be proud of that the financial needs of 4,000 citizens annually. Tested by results in the way of direct economy and indirect economy and efficiency in humanitarian relief, after the due disbursements have been made, there remains a considerable sum which is gain in efficiency from the abolition of sinecures and the elimination of waste. Having, therefore, such a business, it should be administered on the same conditions of strict accountability as any other business."

VALUE OF UNITY SHOWN.

Denver, April 29.—Secretary Anderson of the state federation of labor has forwarded a letter to the Colorado trade union urging them to affiliate to the state branch and assist in securing the following laws. The following list of labor laws in this state is cited as proof of what workers can do when they are united:

Age of employees not ground for discharge from employment; employers also limit number hours law; bureau of labor statistics; child labor law; coal mine inspection law; free employment offices; free employment offices; exemption law; factory inspection law; horses' drinking trough law; legislature in labor disputes law; mechanics' lien law; inspection of metalliferous mines law; payment of days; payment of wages on public works; railway employees' qualification law; semi-monthly pay law; sanitary shops law; seats for female employes law; school-house site law; state capitol building employes; locomotive headlight law; women's eight-hour law; minimum wage for teachers.

GIRL GLOVE WORKERS STRIKE.

Decatur, Ill., April 29.—Girls employed in the Mulhenbuch glove and mitten factory have struck against the decision of the management to increase wages and better working conditions. The girls say they are receiving from $4 up for the flights of stairs to get to their work and if they are one minute late the door is locked and they are docked a half hour home. Toilets are unsanitary and the drinking water faucet is the same one that is over the dirty cloth used by the employes to wash. The factory is swept but twice a week and lint from the cloths used in making gloves is an inch deep on the floor. The girls are compelled to furnish all needles and their machines are eaten within a few feet of the toilet.

Operators are unorganized. They say they do not expect to secure their former positions, but they hope their protest will result in bettering the condition of other working girls.

WILL ASSIST THEM TO JUDGE.

Pittsburg, Pa., April 29.—Street car employes in this city are taking a lesson from the employes of the Pittsburg Railway company has published full page advertisements in the daily newspapers of the city. The company says "we are willing to let the public decide whether this is a square deal or not."

And to assist the public in arriving at a fair and just decision the company explains:

"If this increase were granted it would mean one of two things, either a curtailment of the service now given, or a considerable increase in the rate of fare."

AGREE TO UNION SHOP.

Boston, April 29.—Last week willow, basket and reed workers in this city were furnished an illustration of the value of unionism. Two of the large shops cancelled contracts with the union, declared for the non-union shop and a wage reduction of $2.50 a week. The A. F. of L. organizer quickly assisted the willow workers in conferences with these concerns, both of whom finally agreed to conditions equivalent with every contract provision in force.

NO COSSACKS FOR NEW YORK.

Albany, N. Y., April 29.—The state assembly has defeated the constabulary bill in the closing hours of the legislature.

This measure had been passed by the senate. Under cover of this measure, the claim of cossack advocates that 114 policemen could protect the farmers of the state, was defeated that the real purpose was to use the cossacks as in Pennsylvania. The workers also objected to policemen policemen to arrest citizens without a warrant.

ANOTHER JOHN D. "UNION."

Seattle, Wash., April 28.—The Rockefeller "union" plan is accepted by President Patteson of the Seattle Construction & Dry Dock company, who has formed an "Employes' association," consisting of strikebreakers who took the places of union boilermakers.

Mr. Patteson opposes unionism—the kind that takes things—but offers no objection to "associations" where they are satisfied with things given them.

LONG HOURS AND SPEED REASON FOR SLACKERS

London, England, April 28.—While British newspapers have roundly condemned "slackers" in industry, a committee appointed by the government has found that it is both humane and logical for men working long hours under a "speeding up" system to shirk and slack. This committee was appointed to consider the health of war munitions workers, and it reports that efficiency is impossible where overtime work destroys the vigor and enthusiasm of employes.

"Under wrong conditions of work, with excessive overtime, it is to be expected, indeed," says the committee, "that some deliberate slacking of the workers might actually give an improvement of output over a period of some length by sparing needful fatigue, just as the 'nursing' of a boat crew over part of a long course may improve their performance."

The Manchester Cotton Factory Times makes this comment on the committee's findings:

"It all amounts to this, that the capacity of the body for labor is limited, and it is useless to make drafts upon energy that is not there. A study of this memorandum might drive it into the consciousness of those who toil not, neither do they spin, that it is not mere caprice or cussedness that has impelled those who have the past few years brain, or both, to press in the past for shorter hours of labor and extended holidays; periods in which to recuperate physical necessity, due to the gradually increasing strain imposed by modern machinery and methods.

"In various ways the committee emphasize that a failure to conserve the maximum efficiency of the workers will be wasteful and disadvantageous. The sooner this fact is recognized and acted upon all round the better it will be for the race in general."

COURT BARS "BIG TALK."

Washington, April 29.—The United States supreme court has defined more clearly than ever before the rule that constitutes dishonest advertising through the mails, and it is likely to put a stop to the advertiser who exaggerates commits an offense if the article sold did not serve the purpose represented, no matter what the value might be.

This decision was made in the case of a Pittsburg company which was indicted on the charge of unlawful use of the mails in selling 10-acre farms. The federal district court of Florida quashed the indictment on the ground that the purchasers of these farms knew the value of the property and that the money's worth exaggerated propaganda was not fraud. In reversing this decision Justice Hughes, speaking for the supreme court, held:

"Mere 'puffing' might not be within its statutory definition, but no opinion need be expressed, that is, the present indictment is not to be justified which the article has; but when a proposed seller goes beyond that, assigns to the article qualities which it does not possess, does not simply magnify in opinion the advantages which it has, but falsifies and misstates existing facts, he transcends the limits of honest and energetic dealing, and his representations and pretenses, * * *

"Such are pretenses or representations or promises which execute the deception and fraud are false they become the contrivance or artifice which the statute denounces."

INCREASES FOR CAR MEN.

East Liverpool, Ohio, April 29.—Motormen and conductors employed by the P. S. & T. company have had their wage pay will receive a wage increase of 2 cents an hour after May 1.

Motormen have been receiving 24, 26 and 28 cents per hour, according to the number of years in service, will now receive 26, 28 and 30 cents. For the first, second and third years respectively. All conductors who have been employed in the employ for more than two years will receive 22 cents per hour instead of 20 cents.

The agreement also includes wage increases for shop men. These workers are represented by the Amalgamated Car Men's union. A few weeks ago this local secured wage increases for its members on the Youngstown and Ohio Valley interurban line.

FAVORS LONG SCHOOLING.

San Francisco, April 28.—At the annual convention of the California Teachers' association, Dr. Elwood Cubberley, United States commissioner of education, said:

"Democracy means equality for all children. Give them universal high school education. Children should not be permitted to leave school at 14. The most important periods in a girl's or boy's life are from 1 to 7 and from 13 to 19 years. The first seven years of school are only given to the fixation of habits that have already begun.

"High school should begin two years earlier than it does. The two years in the seventh and eighth grades are wasted. They are merely marking time.

"Teachers should be promoted with the children from grade to grade."

METAL WORKERS UNITING.

Leadville, Col., April 29.—Despite a recent 10 per cent increase smeltermen in this district are joining the trade union movement, according to the organizing campaign conducted by President McLennan of the state federation of labor and Organizer Duffy assisted.

A few weeks ago the smeltermen struck and were threatened with drastic penalties. Conferences were held and the men returned to work and were granted wage increases, but the incident awakened them to the power they possess.

PROTECT THEIR JURISDICTION.

Pittsburg, Pa., April 28.—The Pittsburg Underwriters' Life association refuses to recognize the union of the agents, but continually "work at the trade" of writing life insurance. The association has notified the agents' union that it will not discussion by excluding from field service all temporary insurance writers.

The union agents take this position, however, some people decision on "infringing on the rights of the individual."

APPALLING LOSS OF LIFE.

Washington, April 29.—Last Monday Senator Owen presented a memorial to the senate from the southern sociological congress asking for the establishment of a national department of health. It is stated that:

"Six hundred thousand citizens of the United States die annually of preventable disease and 4,500,000 are needlessly sick. The economic loss per year from this cause alone is a half billion dollars."

FEDERAL SAFETY ACT STIFFENED BY COURT

Washington, April 29.—In a decision in the case of the Texas & Pacific Railway company vs. Rigsby, the United States supreme court flas narrowed the chances of railroads escaping damages for violation of the federal safety appliance act.

Heretofore courts, in many instances, have held against injured railway employes because a car, or a portion of its freight, was destined to some portion of the same state in which the injury occurred. Even though the railroad was interstate-commerce from state to state, courts have held that the car was in intrastate (within the state) commerce and that the federal safety appliance act did not apply.

The United States supreme court has annulled this theory in the case of the Texas & Pacific vs. Rigsby. The latter was a brakeman at Marshall, Texas. A box car marked "bad order" was switched on the main track preparatory to taking it to the repair shop. After setting the brake, Rigsby, in descending from the car, seized a defective grab iron that formed the rungs of the ladder and fell, sustaining injuries. He was awarded $11,000 damages by the district federal court and the company appealed the case to the supreme court on the stereotyped plea that Rigsby was not engaged in interstate commerce at the time he was injured and was therefore not under the protection of the federal safety appliance act.

The court answered this claim by citing a former decision in which it was held that a car destined to be hauled in a train made that statute embrace all cars used on any railway that in a highway of interstate commerce.

The court now strengthens this decision by holding that even though an injured employe is not engaged in interstate commerce he can secure damages for violation of the safety appliance act.

"That the scope of the legislation is broad enough to include all employes whose duties are connected with the character of the commerce in which they are engaged, is plain," said the court.

Justice Hughes dissented, his contention that former defenses will not be considered and that where employes are injured in violation of the safety appliance law, even though the employe is engaged in intrastate commerce, the federal law applies.

The court made another significant statement when it concurred in the railroad company's claim that Rigsby was not entitled to the award because he knew the law was being "broken." This was waved aside on the ground that "the statute imposes an absolute unqualified duty to maintain the appliance in secure condition."

The judgment of $11,000 against the railroad company was then affirmed.

CARPENTERS CONTINUE GAINS.

Indianapolis, April 28.—General Secretary Duffy of the Brotherhood of Carpenters reports that this organization is making gains in membership and wages this spring and summer than ever before and that employers are signing wage scale agreements in most instances for two and three years. The following recent gains are recorded:

Cambridge, Ohio—Increase from 40 5-8 to 45 cents an hour.

Wellsburg, W. Va.—From 34 to 34.50 a day.

Jackson, Mich.—From 40 to 45 cents an hour.

Hoquiam, Wash.—From 45 to 50 cents an hour.

Lafayette, Ind.—From 45 to 50 cents an hour.

Omaha, Neb.—On May 1 increases from 5 to 7 1-2 cents an hour; on August 1, 1916, from 52 1-2 to 55 cents an hour; on November 1, 1916, from 55 to 60 cents; on May 1, 1917, from 57 1-2 to 60 cents an hour.

There is little indication at this time of any extended trouble anywhere throughout the jurisdiction of the Brotherhood of Carpenters.

REPORT CONVICT LABOR BILL.

Washington, April 29.—The senate committee on education and labor has made a favorable report on the Hughes bill providing that the Webb law be been amended, however, to not apply to old convicts, and not to take effect until three years after ratification by congress. These amendments will indicate the opposition of many labor congressmen to this legislation, which is urged by the American Federation of Labor.

A bill similar to the Hughes bill has been introduced in the house by Representative Webb, but it is not on the house calendar. At present when a state passes legislation regarding the admission of convict labor products from other states, it is construed as "an encroachment on the rights of commerce." The Booher-Hughes legislation is really an enabling act which will permit states to do what has been prohibited by the courts.

BREWERY WORKERS GAIN.

St. Louis, Mo., April 29.—The various brewery workers' unions and their employers have signed a new agreement. Under the terms of the agreement for wage increases that range from 42 a week upward. The drivers' helpers and bottlers' helpers receive increases from $1 and $1.20 a day to $2.25. The wages of girls in bottling shops are increased from $6 to $7 brewers, $2.50; firemen, $1; stablemen, $1.25; firemen, $1.20; oilers, $1.20; bottlers, from $1.20 to $1.50; engineers, $1.50; coopers, $1.50; workers and laborers, $1.20.

Engineers secure a six-day work week. Heretofore they worked seven days a week with two days' layoff each month.

POTTSVILLE, WIRE MEN GAIN.

Pottsville, Pa., April 29.—The Electrical Workers' union has secured wage increases and other betterments for 150 of its members employed by the Union Electric company and the Eastern Pennsylvania Light, Heat and Power company, which has been in force since April 1. The $2.50 a month, with a nine-hour day and pay for overtime. The men were formerly employed 10 hours a day. The two-year contract dates from May 1.

IRON MOLDERS STRIKE.

Tiffin, Ohio, April 29.—Iron molders in two large plants are on strike for nine hours a day and an increase of 50 cents a day. The old rate was $2 for a 10-hour day.

TEAMSTERS RAISE WAGES.

Anaconda, Mont., April 28.—The Teamsters' union has raised wages 25 cents a day. The new rates are: $3.50 for eight hours and $4 for ten hours. The old rates were $3.25 for feeding horses on both days.